

Nevada Common Core State Standard Update

August 2010

On June 2, 2010, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers released a set of state-led education standards, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The English-language arts and mathematics standards for grades K-12 were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, states, teachers, school administrators and parents. The standards establish clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare America's children for success in college and work. The CCSS and related information can be found at <http://www.corestandards.org>.

After review and approval by the Council for Academic Standards, the Nevada State Board of Education met on June 18, 2010, to adopt the draft Common Core State Standards. On June 15, 2010, educators from the Nevada Department of Education, Nevada School Districts, and Regional Professional Development Programs met to begin discussions concerning the roll-out of the Common Core Standards. As a result of these discussions, the Nevada Common Core Roll-Out Coalition was formed to include representatives from:

- Nevada Department of Education
- Nevada's 17 school districts
- Charter School Association of Nevada
- Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDPs)
- Nevada System of Higher Education
- Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force

Following the initial meeting, a Steering Committee was selected to guide these efforts. A primary goal of the coalition is that all Nevada educators, parents, students, legislators, and stakeholders understand the significance of the adoption of the CCSS in English language arts and mathematics as the foundation of curriculum, instruction, and assessments.

On June 23, 2010, the 31-state SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), of which Nevada is a member, submitted its application for a competitive federal grant that would be used to develop a student assessment system aligned to the CCSS. If funded, assessments developed through the work of the SBAC will be used as accountability assessments by all member states beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. Additional information about the consortium can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER>.

Until assessments aligned to the CCSS are fully implemented during the 2014-2015 school year, as proposed by SBAC, Nevada's existing assessment system of Criterion Referenced Tests, Writing, High School Proficiency Exams and Nevada Alternate Assessment will remain in place. Curriculum and instruction aligned to the CCSS must be carefully balanced with existing Nevada standards to ensure that all students are adequately prepared to participate in the Nevada Proficiency Examination Program (NPEP) while moving forward with the more rigorous CCSS. The Nevada Common Core Roll-Out Coalition has committed to a timeline for the development of materials and trainings designed to assist schools and districts in meeting this balance. Therefore, it is

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imperative that Nevada educators continue to instruct in accordance with Nevada's existing standards until CCSS roll-out materials have been developed and distributed.

The following are relevant dates proposed for the roll-out and implementation of the CCSS:

Spring 2010	Draft Common Core Standards were approved and adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education and the Council for Academic Standards.
November 10, 2010	A Gap Analysis and Bridge Document will be completed and distributed to Nevada schools and school districts that will allow Nevada stakeholders to view the similarities and differences of the currently-used Nevada Academic Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards.
April 1, 2011	Tools will be developed to facilitate the awareness and knowledge needed for Nevada educators to begin the transition process of curriculum and instructional design to encompass both Nevada Standards expectations as well as the expectations of the Common Core State Standards.
April 1- May 31, 2011	All Nevada Educators will receive basic professional development tools and resources to ensure their ability to begin to instruct and monitor student achievement in the Nevada Standards and Common Core Standards.
2013-2014 School Year	Common Assessments aligned to the CCSS will be field-tested across the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium member states, if funded.
2014-2015 School Year	The SBAC Common Assessments will be operational and included in Nevada's system of accountability, if funded.

To ensure that this ambitious plan is successful, timely, and relevant; communication is essential for all Nevada Stakeholders. To accomplish this, the Nevada Department of Education will designate a location on the NDE web site that will contain links and documents containing all pertinent information.

The Nevada State Board of Education believes that the adoption of the draft Common Core State Standards will significantly enhance the educational system of Nevada. Implementation of the CCSS will allow all students to be instructed to a common set of standards adhering to common expectations and goals within Nevada, as well as across state lines. Through collaborative efforts teachers, administrators and professional development providers will gain information and share ideas regarding instructional best practice and effective teaching. Working with other states within the SBAC will also allow Nevada the opportunity to gain and share expertise through the development of common formative and summative assessment tools and materials. All of these efforts will result in ensuring that Nevada's students will complete high school prepared for success in college and careers.